

GRENADATE ATTACK British envoy disappointed at no progress in probe

BDNEWS, Dhaka
British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury yesterday expressed his disappointment as the grenade attack on him and others in Bangladesh that killed or maimed many people still remained unresolved.
The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) failed to submit charge sheet on the attack on him even after two years.
"We are disappointed that this and other unresolved terrorist attacks continue to tarnish the image of Bangladesh which has

Registration staff confined for hours over fake roll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Several hundred people, whose names had been excluded from the draft voter list, demonstrated at Shyampur in the capital and confined the local assistant registration officer (ARO) for hours yesterday on the last day of registering complaints and claims regarding the voters roll in preparation.
The demonstrators, mostly leaders and activists of the opposition Awami League (AL), alleged that enumerators involved in the voter registration process intentionally excluded them and registered a huge number of fake voters who are loyal to the ruling alliance.
Angry demonstrators in processions went to Muradpur Government High School at Lal

Jubo Sangram to besiege EC Secretariat today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Jubo Sangram Parishad (JSP) will lay siege to the Election Commission Secretariat and district election offices today demanding immediate cancellation of the draft voter list and resignation of the chief election commissioner and two other election

Power minister shown the door over crisis

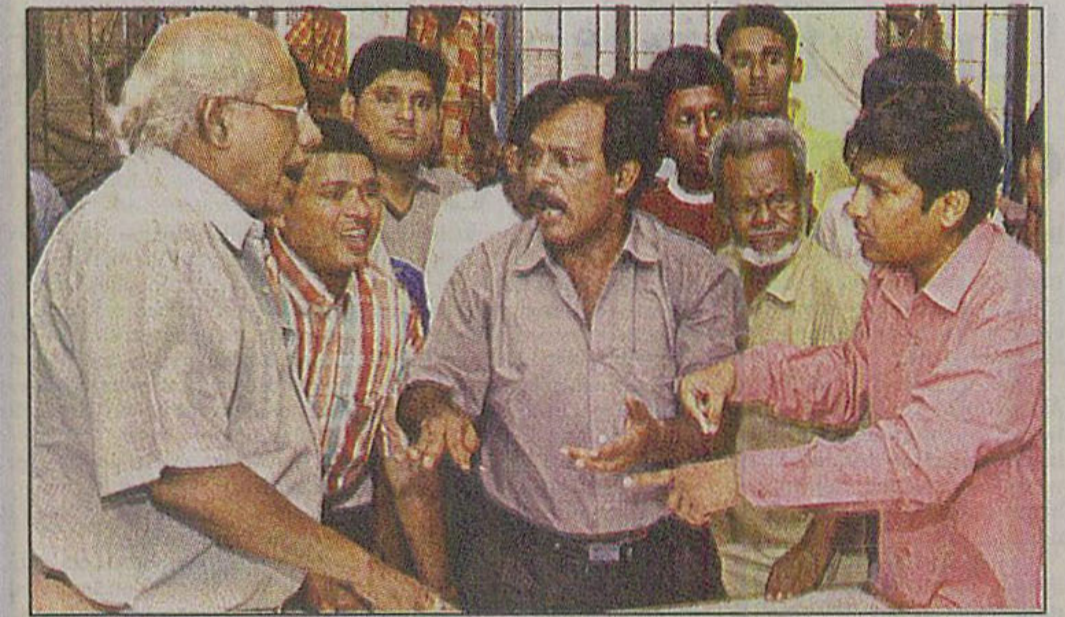
Iqbal placed in agriculture ministry, low profile state minister for finance takes his place

SHARIER KHAN
Amid widespread public protest against severe power crisis, the government replaced State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Saturday night with State Minister for Finance and Planning Anwarul Kabir Talukder.
Iqbal was made the state minister for agriculture.
Sources said the removal is "entirely cosmetic" as Anwarul Kabir, a very low performing minister



Iqbal Hassan Mahmood

of the current government, was told that the Prime Minister's Office and specifically the committee headed by the PM's principal secretary will take executive decisions on power.
"Like all other recent reshuffles in the cabinet, this change will not have any positive impact on the country," said a source among the policymakers.
The cabinet now has over 54 ministers, state ministers, deputy



Locals at Jurain challenge the assistant registration officer at Muradpur Adarsha Uchcha Bidyalaya for including fake voters in the voter list on the last day of registering objections to the list yesterday.

54KG HEROIN SHIPMENT Tiles factory set up to cover up smuggling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The detained proprietor of Green Haven Enterprise, Abul Bashar, yesterday confessed that he and Kazi Zafar Reza, owner of Rainbow Enterprise, smuggled 54kg heroin hidden in floor tiles to the UK between 2004 and April 2006.
He also confessed that he and

Rejoinder
The housing and public works ministry has sent a rejoinder to the photo caption of a swamp in the city's Khulgaon area The Daily Star ran on May 16. The rejoinder termed the caption's statement that the swamp "is being filled up to set up a graveyard ignoring the law that bans filling up of water bodies" incorrect and misleading.
It said, "The swamp in the picture is neither a natural water body nor an earmarked lake or jheel. It is simply a low-land of earthcutting zone." "So," it argued, "the question of disregarding the law does not arise."

AN APPEAL TO HONOURABLE FINANCE MINISTER MR. M. SAIFUR RAHMAN, M.P.,

Respected Finance Minister,
We humbly bring to your kind attention that CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING SECTOR has contributed 18.25 per cent of the GDP during 2005. In terms of Taka it has been calculated to the amount of 59 thousand crores. Besides millions of workers and thousand of backward/forward linkage industries are also contributing to this sector to help the economic growth of the country.
Someone has recently moved to hinder the economic growth of the sector by lobbying to misguide the NBR to impose 13 per cent duty on MS Billet (All H.S. CODE 72.07) instead of existing 6 per cent on the pretext that local billet manufacturers are having problem in competing with Ingot and cannot set up more units. The surprising factor of the move is that it has been mentioned that ingot is the raw material of billet which is totally misleading and shows lack of knowledge about steel making. Ingot and billet are raw materials for M.S. Products and are same type of products totally independent of each other. Our member mills do not want such extra protection from the government and never wrote to any quarters to recommend this. End consumers such as Rehab members or other consumers do not want increase in duty of Billets because that will mean the cost of steel to them will increase substantially and the economy will face a down turn. This move is against your philosophy of sustainable growth. Moreover, price of billet (US\$460) is already much higher than the price of scrap (US\$260) so the effect of same rate of duty results in higher landed cost of billets compared to locally produced billets, hence the local billet making industry is in no threat with the current 6% duty. With the current power crisis in the country local steel mills are not being able to utilize 100% billet making capacities and therefore, some quantity of billet is imported to utilize rolling capacities.
Honourable Finance Minister,
We have all the confidence and trust on your wit and wisdom to keep and lead the country on the road to development. We just draw your kind attention through this appeal to stop this anti-development move and instruct NBR to maintain status quo with all policies related to steel melting and re-rolling industry.

Bangladesh Re-Rolling Mills Association

Bangladesh Steel Mill Owners Association

900 CONTROVERSIAL VOTERS Why order to include them not illegal

HC asks govt, EC to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule on the government and Election Commission (EC) to explain within four weeks why the orders directing an assistant registration officer of Mohammadpur area to include voters in the draft electoral roll from 900 controversial forms should not be declared illegal.
The HC also directed the inspector general of police (IGP) to collect the 900 voters' registration forms from the office of Assistant Registration Officer (ARO) Aminul

Bus counter has 21 voters, entire village only 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
While a ticket counter of an inter-district passenger coach service has 21 voters, only three voters live in an entire village, reveals the draft voter list.
Twenty-one voters on the draft electoral roll for Mohammadpur share Hanif Enterprise's ticket counter at Shyamoli in the capital as their common address.
In contrast, a village in Narail has only one man and two women of voting age. The village, Munshinagar in Salambad union under Kalia upazila, must be a

Bangladesh logs on to submarine cable

PM opens Cox's Bazar landing station

UNB, Cox's Bazar
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the submarine cable at its landing station opening up a new vista of opportunities for providing the cheapest ICT services in all sectors.
The commissioning of the new submarine cable is a landmark in the country's telecommunications and information communication technology sectors, as it will tremendously enhance the performance and capacity in the fast-emerging knowledge economy.
"From today Bangladesh is going to be connected with the global information super-highway," the prime minister

No, no, an emphatic no

Says CEC to deny allegations of failure in preparing voter list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz yesterday brushed aside the allegation of the Election Commission's (EC) failure to make a flawless voter list.
"There is no failure to prepare the voter list and the answer is no, no, an emphatic no," he said when a reporter asked him if he would resign admitting the "failure."
The CEC's denial came at a press conference he addressed after a long break since he stopped meeting the press about four months ago.
Though he imposed restriction on asking question at yesterday's press conference, a reporter threw a question while he was leaving and he replied it.



MA Aziz

MTBL opens up in Gulshan

From 22nd May the residents and business houses of Gulshan can bank at MTBL Gulshan Branch. We move to Gulshan to facilitate your banking needs.

Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.
68, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, Phone : 7170138-40, www.mutualtrustbank.com

Hartal cripples Sylhet life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Business establishments remained shut and traffic movement was halted in Sylhet city as Awami Juba League, youth front of main opposition Awami League (AL), enforced a half-day hartal yesterday protesting the killing of Juba League leader Ayub Ali.
Two minibuses, two private cars, some auto rickshaws and rickshaws were damaged during the hartal.
Juba League activists brought out a procession in the city and held a rally at the city's Court Point.
Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) Mayor and City AL chief Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and city and district AL and Juba League leaders addressed the rally chaired by Jagodish Das, president of Sylhet district Awami Juba League and

SYLHET BLAST CASE JMB chief charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
A charge sheet was submitted to the Sylhet district headquarter magistrate court yesterday against the chief of outlawed JMB, Abdur Rahman, and his accomplices in connection with an explosives case.
The case records were also sent to the district judge court yesterday fixing the next date for hearing on June 8.
Superintendent of Sylhet Police Mallik Fokhrul Islam told the Daily Star that submission of the charge sheet was delayed as the central monitoring committee of the home ministry had recommended bringing some changes in it through further investigation in

DHAKA: AG-018927/805